



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

BOOK NOTICES

Statistics of the Negroes in the United States. By Henry Gannett, of the United States Geological Survey. Published by the Trustees of the John F. Slater Fund in "Occasional Papers," No. 4.

In a prefatory notice to this monograph the trustees say: "Such varied statements are made in the pulpit and press, on the platform, and in conversation respecting the condition of the negro population that it seemed desirable to publish an authoritative paper on the subject. * * * It is hoped that the study of this paper will contribute to the understanding of many problems in education, morals, and politics."

This study of the movement of the negro population by Mr. Gannett is, as all who know him might premise, conscientious, elaborate, and painstaking, and will stand as a valuable contribution to the general history of the African in the United States.

It appears that the number of blacks in proportion to the whites in our population has, contrary to an impression which has prevailed in some quarters, decidedly but gradually declined since 1790, when the first reliable data were obtained, at which time the relative proportions of the population were 80.73 per cent. white to 19.27 per cent. black.

It is now (1894), upon the basis of an estimated population of 61,000,000 whites and 8,000,000 blacks, 88.41 per cent. white to 11.59 per cent. black.

Put in another form, the blacks in 1790 numbered nearly one-fifth of the whole population, and in 1894 considerably less than one-eighth. In only two of the eleven censuses taken has the ratio of blacks statistically increased, namely, in 1810 and in 1880. I find that the average rate of increase by decades in the white population from 1790 to 1860 was 35.74 per cent.; in the black, 28.85 per cent.

"It may be said," remarks Mr. Gannett, "that this diminishing rate of increase in the blacks is due to the enormous immigration of whites; but it can be shown that the greatest increase

of the whites has not been dependent upon immigration, since their rate of increase was greater than the blacks before immigration set in."

This decadence is more likely due to bad sanitary, hygienic, and, in the North, climatic conditions. In the "black belt" the one-room cabin is almost universal, and is not only a sanitary but a serious moral menace to the community.

Mr. Gannett remarks that "these figures and the conclusion necessarily derived from them should set at rest forever all fears regarding any possible conflict of the races."

I am not aware that any such fears have ever had serious existence, excepting perhaps in the South for a short time at the beginning of the civil war, and certainly no fears as to the result of such a conflict could have ever been reasonably entertained at any time in the country at large. Conflicts are always possible, but not always probable.

We have to thank Mr. Gannett for giving a final quietus to the much-preached theory that the negro when left to himself and having perfect freedom of movement would, despite his racial inclinations, drift to the North, where his environment is erroneously supposed to be more friendly.

The census of 1890 shows the center of the negro population, which was in 1880 in latitude $34^{\circ} 42'$ and longitude $84^{\circ} 58'$, or in the northwestern corner of Georgia, not far from Dalton, to be in that year (1890) nearly five degrees, or more than 300 miles, to the south of it, the longitude being nearly the same.

"In the cotton States" the proportion of negroes has in nearly all cases increased until a very recent time; indeed, in two or three of them it has increased up to the time of the last census, while in most of them the only diminution in the proportion has occurred during the last ten years.

All this shows, in the most unmistakable way, a general southward migration of the race.

"The former slave States in which the negroes have decreased are Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, and Missouri and secondarily in Tennessee and North Carolina. There are also areas of decrease in Texas and small areas in other States, but these are of little importance in comparison with the great areas of the border States in which the number of negroes has actually diminished. On the other hand, the most rapid increase of the

race has been in the southern and southwestern parts of the region under consideration, and the heaviest increase is south of the so-called 'black belt.'"

The preference of the negro for the higher temperature of the South is more emphatically shown by the census bulletin No. 199 than by these statements of Mr. Gannett.

It appears that of the 7,470,040 persons of African descent in the United States in 1890, 90.26 per cent. were living south of the forty-first parallel and in the North Atlantic census division, comprising the States of New England, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, for which the negro is supposed to have a special predilection, we find but 3.61 per cent.

The negro's liking for high temperatures would seem to be in the ratio of the purity of his blood. Of course, the census returns of the number of persons of negro and white blood in the various degrees of mixture can at best be but approximately correct, but the results are generally supported by our observation.

These returns as given show that of the whole *purely* African or negro population in the United States nearly 92 per cent. are south of the forty-first parallel, and of the mulattoes, in the various degrees of blood mixture, but about 81 + per cent. are in that region.

As regards the distribution and density of the negro population nearly all the Northern and Western States, with scarcely an exception, have less than four negroes to the square mile and many less than one, while in Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina more than half the people are negroes, and in South Carolina three out of every five are of that race.

The census of 1890 also forcibly shows us that the negro is not to be excepted in the general drift of population to the cities which is going on all over the world.

Mr. Gannett estimates that in 1860 but 4.2 per cent. of the negroes of the slave States were in cities of 8,000 or more inhabitants; in 1870, 8.5 per cent.; in 1890, 12 per cent.—a ratio of increase much greater than that of the whites in the same period.

The negro is unquestionably gregarious, as Mr. Gannett suggests, but it is very doubtful if it is the principal factor in this movement. It is more likely to be found in the difficulty he has experienced in obtaining a livelihood from the soil because of his ignorance and extravagant methods.

To keep him in the country and upon the land to which by his habits, character, and training he is best fitted, he should be industrially educated in better methods of agriculture. Until this is done the movement will go rapidly on.

Precisely the same drift from the farms to the cities, and resulting from similar causes, is shown in Massachusetts, although our race is by no means so gregarious.

"In 1790, when the first census was taken, the great mass of the people were well scattered over the State, on farms and in towns of less than 2,500 people—frugal, industrious, well-to-do (for those days), and contented."*

Boston was then the only town in the State with over 8,000 population, representing 4.7 per cent. of that of the entire State. In 1885 66.4 per cent., or nearly seven-tenths of its population, were in cities of 8,000 inhabitants and over.

In the country at large in 1790, 3.33 per cent. of its population were in cities; in 1800, 3.90 per cent.; in 1880, 22.5 per cent.; in 1890, over 29 per cent.; "and while our total population in the year 1890 was but sixteen times as great as in 1790, our urban population had become one hundred and thirty-nine times as great."

In England, in 1801, one-third of its population was in towns; in 1881 two-thirds lived in towns. In Norway, in 1801, 9 per cent. lived in towns; in 1888, 22 per cent. In Germany and France the same movement is going on.

In his remarks upon the educational statistics Mr. Gannett appears to give too much importance to the enrollment of the negro school population. "The true test of the application of our school system is not found in the 'enrollment,' but in the proportion of children of school age, educable children, who attend school, to the whole number of such children,"† and the relation between "enrollment" and "education" is of very uncertain value.

The average percentage of colored children of school age "enrolled" in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia is 47 per cent., but of these only 60 + per cent. attend school. Put in another form, of the 2,000,000 colored children of school age in the District of

* Editorial, Springfield (Massachusetts) Republican.

† Article on "Educational Status of the Negro." A. C. S. Bulletin No. 5.

Columbia and these States, but about 1,000,000 are enrolled, and only 625,000 attend school, leaving 1,375,000, or 68.75 per cent., of the whole colored school population out of school. Of the 2,000,000 whites in the same States of school age, 60 per cent. remain out of school—not a flattering exhibit for either race.

With the movement and distribution of the population and the “illiteracy and education” of the negro we leave behind the valuable and principal part of Mr. Gannett’s paper and pass from the realm of the approximately known to that of the nebulous and the comparatively unknown.

The “conjugal condition” of the negroes manifestly belongs in the latter category, and his criminality is but partially known. The demand of Congress for the conjugal condition, the mortality and pauperism of the country, it is impossible completely to satisfy. This is especially the case in the statistics of mortality and of the conjugal condition, for the simple reason that in many of the States there is no general law requiring the registration of births, marriages, and deaths and no authentic records are available. In the States where there is no general law it is true that most of the cities require some sort of registration. In other States there is a general law governing marriages, but not requiring the registration of births and deaths. In others the registration is voluntary and erratic.

A remarkable instance of the folly and failure of voluntary registration occurred in one of the leading Southern States a few years since, where an examination of the annual report of the State board of health to the legislature revealed the surprising statement that in two counties having respectively over 30,000 and 25,000 inhabitants there were but 74 and 14 deaths respectively during the year.

In the States and cities having proper laws there is a frequent failure by physicians and clergymen to report—a failure which should be corrected by a sufficient penalty. In some instances the neglect has been so great as to cause the partial abandonment of registration and its confinement to deaths only.

A public registration of births, marriages, and deaths was established by the Massachusetts Colony in 1639. As a result of that wise provision Massachusetts is now one of the very few States in the Union in which the increase or decrease of human viability can be even approximately determined during fifty years.

It is scarcely necessary to draw attention to the fact that in the rural population of the "black belt" it is impossible by any ordinary means to enforce a registration law, and the actual death, marriage, or birth rate of such populations is now altogether a matter of conjecture. Any attempted comparison of negro and white pauperism is equally valueless unless founded upon house-to-house visitation and not confined to paupers maintained in alms-houses, as in the present census. "In the South but little provision is made in the form of alms-houses for poor relief."

The actual and growing criminality of the country is a sad history, and its sadness is heightened by the thought that a race which has been mainly dependent upon us for its education and guidance should have a criminal record nearly four times as bad as our own, and further by the fact that, as bad as the record is, it is still far from complete, and that the criminality of both races must be considered as but partially known.

GEORGE R. STETSON.

The Human Bones in the Hemenway Collection in the United States Army Medical Museum at Washington. By Dr. Washington Matthews, Surgeon United States Army, with Observations on the Hyoid Bones of the Collection by Dr. J. L. Wortman. Proceedings National Academy of Sciences, vol. vi.

Compared with the elaborate studies that have been made by Broca, Virchow, and other European scholars, the labors of Americans in the somatological realm of anthropology have been slight. The work before us will, however, go far to redeem the reputation of our own scientists, since it is one of the most exhaustive examinations of a small group of skeletons that has ever appeared.

This group is distinctively American and of a most interesting character, being a collection of some fifty-seven skeletons, together with a large number of fragments of skeletons, constituting the remains of an ancient people that formerly inhabited the valley of the Salado river, a tributary of the Gila, in southwestern Arizona.

The exploration of the valley and exhumation of the remains was conducted at first by Mr. F. H. Cushing aided afterward by Drs. J. L. Wortman and Herman F. C. ten Kate. The bones